

## POLICY MANUAL

### State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

#### POLICY 1033(SYS)95-1 Mission, Values, and Vision Statement

##### Authority

Board Minutes Dated October 30, 1995  
Effective Date November 29, 1995  
Approved by Board Chairman /s/ James G. Lumpkin

##### References

§ 37.1-10, *Code of Virginia* (1950), as amended, Powers and Duties of the Board.  
STATE BOARD POLICY 1002(SYS)80-6 Policy Declaration on a Statewide System of Services (HJR 9)  
STATE BOARD POLICY 1009(SYS)86-5 Mission Statement -- State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board  
STATE BOARD POLICY 1016(SYS)86-23 Policy Goal of the Commonwealth -- Development of a Comprehensive Community-Based System for Serving Mentally Ill, Mentally Retarded and Substance Abusing Citizens

##### Background

POLICY 1002(SYS)80-6 Policy Declaration on a Statewide System of Services (HJR 9) was promulgated by the State Board in 1980 in support of the policy declaration embodied in HJR No. 9 relative to the establishment of a statewide system of treatment, training and care of the mentally ill, mentally retarded and substance abusing citizens of the Commonwealth. The basic principle of this statewide system was that in every instance the appropriate treatment, training and care shall be provided in the least restrictive environment with careful consideration of the unique needs and circumstances of each person. At the same time, the individual's right to refuse such services shall be respected and preserved, with the exception of instances where the individual's behavior presents a danger to himself or others.

STATE BOARD POLICY 1009(SYS)86-5 Mission Statement -- State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board was promulgated by the State Board in 1986 in response to the Governor's request that each agency evaluate its mission statement to determine whether or not the mission statement is consistent with services currently provided and is responsive to current issues and changing times.

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# POLICY 1033(SYS)95-1, Continued

## Background (Continued)

Policy 1009 was designed to set forth the then current mission statement of the Board that is consistent with current services provided by the Department, together with CSBs, state and private facilities, and other state, local, and federal agencies, and is responsive to current issues and changing times.

STATE BOARD POLICY 1016(SYS)86-23 Policy Goal of the Commonwealth--Development of a Comprehensive Community-Based System for Serving Mentally Ill, Mentally Retarded and Substance Abusing Citizens was promulgated in 1986 in response to several resolutions of the General Assembly. This policy articulated the principle that responsibility for the continuity of all services to the mentally disabled, inpatient and outpatient, should be placed with the community services board, and that the Department provide the direction, technical assistance and evaluation that will ensure uniform and effective standards and delivery of services to meet the needs of the mentally disabled.

For the past several years the State Board, departmental staff, and representatives of community services boards, consumers, families, and advocacy groups have been examining the mission, values, and vision of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The results of this examination are incorporated into this policy.

## Purpose

To articulate the current mission, values, and vision of the State Board and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

## Mission

The mission of the State Board and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services is to improve the quality of life for people with mental illnesses, mental retardation, and substance abuse problems by providing the very best services possible, at the most reasonable cost to the citizens of Virginia. The Department works through the local service delivery system to provide effective services and to prevent the development of mental illnesses, mental retardation, and substance abuse problems. This is accomplished through a coordinated system of care that respects and promotes the dignity, rights, and full participation of individuals and their families.

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Service System  
Values

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We base this mission on the following values and principles:

We believe that all people have a right, which should not be limited by the presence of mental illnesses, mental retardation, or substance abuse problems, to participate in the life of the community.

We affirm the value of human life and each individual's:

- uniqueness and worth;
- capacity for mental, emotional, and spiritual growth and development;
- dignity and right to be treated with respect;
- fullest participation in decisions affecting his or her life;
- diverse cultural and ethnic background; and
- right to be safe from harm.

These values guide services and supports that are, to the best of our ability:

- provided equitably across the Commonwealth through a wide and comprehensive array of public and private services and supports;
- based in the person's community, so that persons remain a part of and participate in community life;
- delivered at the earliest possible time so that later, more costly and intensive interventions may be prevented;
- responsive to each individual's needs and preferences;
- ethnically, racially, culturally, age, gender, and language appropriate;
- accessible, affordable, and locally available;
- the result of collaboration and cooperation among people who receive services, their families, and service providers;
- dynamic, flexible, and creative, provided by a well trained diverse work force that uses best practices;
- effective, efficient, and outcome-oriented;
- ethical and accountable to those they serve, their families and their community, and the citizens of Virginia;
- achieved through effective leadership;
- designed to support and promote the family unit;
- consistent with positive values such as independence, responsibility, and family focus;
- supportive of local groups such as civic and religious organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in their communities; and
- provided in the least restrictive environment consistent with therapeutic need.

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Vision and  
Strategy

Our vision is an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of services that improves the quality of life for individuals with or at risk of mental illnesses, mental retardation, or substance abuse problems. This will require increasing the availability of quality services, tailored to the individual, that respect and reflect the choices, strengths, and participation of consumers and their families. Services will be provided through an array of public and private providers that have demonstrated effectiveness.

State-of-the-art research and information systems must be utilized to make informed clinical decisions about the necessary types, mix, emphasis, and availability of services. To achieve this, the services system must be flexible, innovative, and open to changes in services, supports, and staff utilization as new knowledge becomes available.

To accomplish this vision, we will rely on the following five-fold strategy:

1. *Focus on Prevention:* Champion prevention and early intervention services that meet the needs of children and families.
2. *Increasing Community Services and Downsizing State Facilities:* Develop and implement a model system of care in which the incentives lie in providing the most appropriate care at the least restrictive level. This model system recognizes the relationship between successful facility reconfiguration and the development of a continuum of community services and makes it possible for resources in the system to be reinvested to expand the community system of care.
3. *Reliance on Efficacy:* Assure that programs demonstrate positive outcomes, using reliable and valid measures.
4. *Application of Our Values to New Program Initiatives:* Assure that new program initiatives support values such as independence, responsibility, and family focus that promote improved quality of life for consumers and their families.
5. *Pursuit of Efficiency:* Assure that every dollar is spent wisely and effectively and that the results of such expenditures provide the greatest value to consumers and citizens of Virginia. Disseminate and encourage, through incentives and technical assistance, the use of best and most efficient practices for care and habilitation of persons with mental illnesses, mental retardation, and substance abuse problems.